Commercial operations from Salem airport

2185. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to start commercial operations from Salem airport in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines/Airline Allied Services Limited have plans to take 6 ATR aircraft on dry lease basis. One of the services proposed to be operated by these aircraft is a 4 days-a-week service on the sector Delhi-Salem-Coimbatore-Chennai.

Policy on development of airports

2186. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for development, construction and modernisation of various airports of the country;

(b) if so, the location-wise details of airports in the country to be developed and modernised;

(c) the details of funds allocated for the same during the current year, airport-wise; and

(d) the present status of the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Development, construction and modernisation of airports are being carried out at various locations in the country as a continuous process. The Government has approved restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai airports through joint venture route based on public private partnership. Nine consortia have been shortlisted for this exercise. Private Partners will be finally selected on the basis of Request for Proposal Bids. The process is likely to be completed in the first half of the financial year 2005-2006. In

the first five years it is estimated that Rs. 4220 crores is likely to be spent for Delhi Airport and Rs. 4478 crores for Mumbai. Government has already accorded approval for setting up of new international airports in Devanhalli near Bangalore and Shamshabad near Hyderabad. Approximate cost for construction of Bangalore and Hyderabad airports are Rs. 1300 crores each. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has also tentatively selected 25 non-metro airports for development of cityside and airside facilities to world class standards through internal and external resources. For this techno-economic feasibility studies have been assigned to Indian Financial Consultants and Global Technical Adviser for five airports each under phase-I. For the remaining 15 airports Expressions of Interests' have been received. Funds have not been allocated as this will be based on development plans to be prepared by the consultants. In addition, AAI is also implementing development/modernisation works at various airports at approximate cost of Rs. 141.92 crores which are under various stages of progress.

Passengers Feedback Scheme

2187. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have held draw of the Passengers Feedback Scheme 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of responses which are received by Government through this scheme during the year 2004;

(d) whether Government have received any suggestions from the passengers that sensitive films should be hand checked and not X-rayed; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) had launched a Passenger Feedback Scheme 2004 from 24.11.2004 to 8.12.2004 at all the airports where CISF has been deployed. The lucky draw was held on 3.2.2005 to decide the first and second prize winners.